

Message Text

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43

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 EUR-08 AF-04 L-01 /044 W
----- 108697

O R 291207Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4672

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0600

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, XO

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA

REFERENCE: STATE 123690 (REPEATED CAPE TOWN AS PRETORIA 1927)

1. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE SAG HAS TAKEN NO OFFICIAL PUBLIC POSITION ON USG'S DIEGO GARCIA PROPOSAL, ALTHOUGH SAG'S GENERAL STANCE ON INDIAN OCEAN STRATEGIC MATTERS INVARIABLY SUPPORTS STRONGER WESTERN PRESENCE THERE. PRESS AND PRIVATE COMMENTS IN PAST HAVE CONSISTENTLY WELCOMED, EVEN URGED, GREATER AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT. SITUATION THUS REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED FROM THAT ANALYZED IN PRETORIA 2071 OF MAY 15, 1974.

2. SAG'S SUPPORT OF STRONG WESTERN PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN IS CLOSELY LINKED WITH ITS DESIRE FOR GREATER WESTERN RECOGNITION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S OWN STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE IN RELATION TO THE CAPE SEA ROUTE AND SAG'S WISH FOR DIRECT WESTERN SUPPORT OF ITS OWN DEFENSE FORCES, AS CONTRASTED WITH US AND UN ARMS EMBARGO. THEREFORE, AS DEPT KNOWS, THERE ARE OBVIOUS DRAWBACKS IN MAKING CONFIDENTIAL

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ANY PUBLIC REFERENCE TO SAG'S PROBABLY FAVORABLY ATTITUDE TOWARD

USG USE OF DIEGO GARCIA, AS THIS WOULD ONLY SERVE TO INCREASE
OPPOSITION FROM AFRICAN AND OTHER INDIAN OCEAN POWERS,
SOME OF WHOM MIGHT SEEK TO DISTORT USG MOTIVES BY SUGGESTING
A US DESIRE TO SUPPORT WHITE SOUTH AFRICA.

BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, DIEGO GARCIA, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, MILITARY BASES, MILITARY CAPABILITIES
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Draft Date: 29 MAY 1975
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Disposition Event:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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Subject: DIEGO GARCIA
TAGS: MARR, XO, US, SA
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